

SCENE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—On Saturday, Mr. Allen, of Ohio, obtained the floor, and in the course of his remarks he referred to a statement made some time ago by Mr. Richardson, of Ill., relative to the cost of supporting and maintaining the negroes in the city of Washington. He was interrupted by

Mr. Blake, of Ohio, who said that the statement of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Richardson) was not sustained by any authentic information; and so far, indeed, from that statement being true, it was very wide of the truth. I do not mean to say that the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Richardson) meant to misrepresent anybody, but there are no facts in any such statement.

Mr. Richardson, of Illinois, (pulling up his sleeves and attitudinizing,) asked menacingly, "Do I understand the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Blake) to deny that the government was paying two hundred dollars per day for the employment and support of the negroes?"

Mr. Blake—I deny that that statement in your speech is true, to the effect that there were two thousand rations per day issued to contrabands, equal to four hundred dollars per day, in this District alone, in violation of law.

Mr. Richardson—That speech was made on the 19th of May, and no member in this House has dared arise in his place and deny a single statement in it until now.

Mr. Blake—Because no man could get the floor for that purpose.

Mr. Richardson (excitedly)—Ah! sir, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Blake) states a falsehood, when he states that no gentleman could get the floor. No gentleman has risen in his place and denied the statement, when there was time to raise an investigating committee to examine into it, and I charge the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Blake), and every other gentleman who denies it, with stating a falsehood.

Mr. Blake—And I charge the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Richardson) with uttering what is utterly untrue and unfounded, and I am ready to back that up.

Mr. Richardson, (advancing menacingly)—Are you? We will see.

Mr. Blake—I am not to be intimidated by any of your threats, sir.

Mr. Richardson (with another pull to his coat sleeves) advanced a few steps towards Mr. Blake, but was stopped by the sergeant-at-arms, who kept him at bay, while he scowled at Mr. Blake, who cried out from his stand-point—"Let him come on."

Mr. Richardson (at the top of his voice)—The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Blake) is a G—d d—n liar.

[There were not more than two dozen members in the hall at the time, and these at once began to concentrate at hearing these words.]

Mr. Blake walked over towards Mr. Richardson's seat, and stooped towards him, with the evident intention of explaining away the misunderstanding that had followed from the remarks, but instantly—

Mr. Richardson cried out, at the top of his voice, "G—d d—n you, get out of this—clear out!"

Finally, order was restored, and Mr. Allen concluded his remarks.

IMPORTANT CONFERENCE.—We understand that the Representatives and Senators of the Border Slaveholding States, by invitation of President Lincoln, had an interview with him at the Executive Mansion on Saturday, when he submitted to them certain views of public policy intimately concerning the welfare of these States. We further learn that a meeting was held on the evening of Saturday last by the gentlemen thus called into council, for the purpose of deliberating upon the propositions made by the President. The nature of these propositions and of the reply which is likely to be made by the members of Congress from the Border States, has not yet transpired.—*Nat. Intelligencer*.

SHINPLASTERS IN CHICAGO.—Some of our retail merchants are issuing checks, owing to the great scarcity of silver change caused by the recent heavy exportations of specie to Europe. This is deemed necessary in order to conduct their business without suffering serious loss in trade or profit. Silver change is worth ten per ct., and scarce at that, and the merchant will either have to lose this much on every dollar of silver he pays out in making change, or turn away his customers by refusing to change bank bills that are presented for payment of goods. The alternative resorted to by some is the issuing of checks or "shinplasters," payable in goods or current funds on presentation.—*Chicago Journal*.

The Washington Republican says: "Sergeant Cronin arrested a man named Thomas Clements, last Thursday, in Alexandria, whither he had traced him. He had passed several counterfeit notes on persons in this city. One note for \$5 on the broken Clinton Bank of Allegany county, Md., was passed upon Emma Clark; a \$5 note of the Bank of Chambersburg, Pa., pronounced a counterfeit, was passed at Benter's restaurant. Upon Clements two \$3 notes purporting to be of the Mechanics' and Traders' Bank of Georgetown, D. C., were found. These notes were carefully examined by an expert, who decided that they are the impressions of an original plate; but there is no such institution in Georgetown, and the notes are simply bogus. Clements was sent to jail for further hearing."

The Christian Banner, printed at Fredericksburg, Va., contains the following: "The stampede of contrabands continues unabated. On Sunday, Monday and Tuesday last, we suppose that hundreds came into town seeking the land of freedom. Curiosity induced us to ask some of them from what section they came, to whom they belonged, where they purposed going, and what they intended to do. Some had come from Caroline, some from Spotsylvania, others from Louisa counties, &c., &c. Some had bad masters, others wanted to be free, and one woman said she had left her master 'to get shet of trouble.' Some were going to the 'Norf,' and others wanted to get work anywhere they could. And here they are, strolling through the town and country unprotected, uncared for, homeless, penniless and friendless, not knowing where to go, what to do, nor what's to become of them."

Committees representing the Chamber of Commerce, the Common Council, the Union Defence Committee, and other organizations, have united upon a call for a mass meeting in Union Square, N. York, to-morrow afternoon, to give expression to the feeling that the war must be pushed with renewed spirit and energy.

A sutler, who was at White House at the time of the evacuation, deemed it not safe to take away his money, and buried it (some six thousand dollars.) He went up on the flag of truce boat John Tucker, and made known his case to some Confederate officers, who went with him and actually helped him to obtain his money, which he brought away with him.

It is remarked that if buyers of small articles will charge the premium when they pay in silver, and sellers charge for change when given, the "scarcity" will explode itself.

The confiscation bill authorizes the use of negroes in camp labors, and (where necessary) as soldiers. This superseded the separate bill on that subject, which was debated so long in the Senate last week.

Gov. Moore, of Louisiana, has issued an address to the people of that State, republished in the Northern papers, in which he eulogizes Mumford, lately hung by order of Gen. Butler, urges the destruction of steamboats in certain cases, forbids trade with the Federal troops, and urges continued resistance.

The Richmond Dispatch, of July 7th, says that the mortality among the wounded Union soldiers at Savage's Station is very great.

The magnificent new Hotel de la Paix will soon be opened in Paris. Amongst the improvements introduced for the convenience of its guests is a telegraph office, which will not only perform all the usual duties of such an establishment, but will place persons lodging in the Hotel de la Paix in communication with all those staying at the Hotel du Lenne; and, moreover, with every theatre in Paris. A model of all the theatres will be kept at the office, and thus, instead of sending messengers to the most distant parts of the city and waiting their return to know whether there are vacant places, seats at any theatre can be procured at a moment's notice, and the parties can proceed to occupy them immediately.

The French Bishops are returning to France in great numbers. More than fifty-six, including two Cardinals, went to Rome, with about one thousand of the French clergy. When the Pope gave his blessing *urbi et orbi*, he was surrounded by four Archbishops and one Bishop, all of whom were French. When the French Prelates appeared in the streets of Rome, people, stationed probably for that purpose, followed their carriages shouting "long live the defenders of the Church!" And in some of the churches, when they preached in favor of the temporal power of the Pope, people applauded. They may try to exert their influence against the government at the next elections. These, however, need not necessarily take place before eighteen months; the powers of the present Chamber not expiring legally before June, 1863, and the Government having six months within which to summon a new one. It is quite uncertain when the French elections will take place.

Considerable interest is manifested in behalf of the passage by Congress of the naval grade bill, so called, providing for the promotion of officers in the navy for meritorious conduct, as well as in the army.

It is stated in a Washington dispatch that an order will soon be issued reducing the term of enlistment for the three hundred thousand volunteers recently called, for from three years to one year.

The report that the U. S. government had agreed to a general exchange of prisoners of war is said to be premature. There is every prospect however that such an agreement will speedily be entered into.

Applications for the office of collectors of taxes in the various Congressional districts are already counted by thousands, and the number is rapidly increasing. The applications are addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury, and require the daily labor of many clerks to assort and endorse them.

The Great Eastern arrived at New York on Friday afternoon. The experiment of bringing her through the Race and up Long Island Sound to her anchorage in Flushing Bay was a complete success.